



Defend Science

ADVISORY BOARD

Michael Hadfield
Kevin Padian

Professor of Zoology, University of Hawaii
Professor, Department of Integrative Biology, UC Berkeley
and president National Center for Science Education

Stephen Palumbi
Theodore A. Postol

Professor of Biological Sciences, Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University
Prof. of Science, Technology, and National Security Policy, MIT

David Seaborg
Andrew Sessler

Evolutionary Biologist, World Rainforest Fund
Former President of the American Physical Society, member of the National Academy of Sciences

March 18, 2007

We write to ask you to contribute to publish the Defend Science Statement in major news media. The Defend Science Statement warrants your support for several key reasons. It exposes the current multi-faceted attack on science: the attacks on evolution, muzzling of global warming scientists, "scientific McCarthyism" in relation to appointments to government advisory boards, to name just a few. It situates this in a larger picture of a very dangerous attack on scientific thinking and method.

The Statement has important backing from the scientific community - it has been signed by 12 Nobel Laureates, over 70 members of the National Academy of Science, many other prominent scientists, and by 1,400 people in all. And it is a call from scientists to people broadly to act to defend science - it aims to reach very broadly into society, far beyond the "usual suspects". At a time when we have a President who can state that evolution is not a fact, there needs to be much greater public outcry in defense of science.

Why is this needed now? There continue to be almost daily attacks on science, large and small, from the Bush administration and other sources. The on-going damage to science, public policy, public understanding of science and how people think about the world deepens. Bush continues to use all the powers at his command to block stem cell research, to cite only one example. How much damage will be done and when this will be stopped will be powerfully shaped by what we do now.

Running the Defend Science Statement as an ad in USA Today lets the scientific community speak broadly to the population - to speak to those who are the targets of attempts to deny science education, to deny access to scientific knowledge and scientific method. Running the ad in USA Today will help people like high school science teachers who are now under tremendous pressure to cave into creationism, for it will show them that they have the full backing of the scientific community. And there are other readers of USA Today who are influenced by the anti-science currents in society, but who at the same time do recognize science as a crucial part of modern life. We think that many of these people will find an important challenge in the Statement. This is a time when such challenges are needed - and this is a crucial part of what is needed today to defend science.

Please contribute generously. A full page ad in a major publication will cost about \$100,000. We are asking for everyone possible to contribute \$500, so that the ad can run as soon as possible. Please forward this letter to your colleagues and all friends of science that you know, with your own comments.

Signed,

Michael Hadfield, *Professor of Zoology, University of Hawaii*

Carl Heiles, *Astronomy Department, UC Berkeley*

James L. Kinsey, *Department of Chemistry, Rice University*

Kevin Padian, *Professor, Department of Integrative Biology, UC Berkeley and president National Center for Science Education*

Theodore A. Postol, *Prof. of Science, Technology, and National Security Policy, MIT*

David Seaborg, *Evolutionary Biologist, World Rainforest Fund*

Andrew Sessler, *Former President of the American Physical Society, member of the National Academy of Sciences*

You can see the Defend Science Statement and the list of signatories at www.defendscience.org
To make a non-tax deductible contribution go to the donate link and click the "Make a Donation" button to contribute

via PayPal. -- donate link is <http://www.defendscience.org/donate.html>

To make a tax deductible contribution, please write the check to: "Institute for the Study of Natural and Cultural Resources", and please put "Defend Science" on the check. Checks can be sent to:

Defend Science
2124 Kittridge St. #182
Berkeley CA 94704